

# PLASTIC MAN

Who DARES follow  
PLASTIC MAN  
down the  
STAIRWAY TO  
MADNESS?







WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM





# WILL TRAIN YOU AT HOME FOR GOOD PAY JOBS IN RADIO-TELEVISION

J. E. SMITH has trained more men for  
Radio-Television than any other man.

America's Fast Growing Industry Offers You

2 FREE BOOKS  
SHOW HOW  
MAIL COUPON

## I TRAINED THESE MEN



**LOST JOB, NOW HAS OWN SHOP**  
"Got laid off my machine shop job which I believe was best thing ever happened as I opened a full time Radio Shop. Business is picking up every week."—E. T. Slate, Corsicana, Texas.

### GOOD JOB WITH STATION

"I am Broadcast Engineer at WLPN. Another technician and I have opened a Radio-TV service shop in our spare time. Big TV sales here . . . more work than we can handle."—J. H. Bangley, Suffolk, Va.



**\$10 TO \$15 WEEK SPARE TIME**  
"Four months after enrolling for NRI course, was able to service Radios . . . averaged \$10 to \$15 a week spare time. Now have full time Radio and Television business."—William Weyde, Brooklyn, New York.

### SWITCHED TO TV SERVICING

"I recently switched over from studio work and am now holding a position as service technician. I am still with RCA, enjoying my work more and more every day."—N. Ward, Ridgefield, N.J.



## WANT YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

Let me show you how you can be your own boss. Many NRI trained men start their own business with capital earned in spare time. Robert Dohman, New Prague, Minn., whose store is shown at left, says, "Am now tied in with two Television outfits and do warranty work for dealers. Often fall back to NRI textbooks for information."



## Television Is Today's Good Job Maker

TV now reaches from coast-to-coast. Qualify for a good job as a service technician or operator. My course includes many lessons on TV. You get practical experience . . . work on circuits common to both Radio and Television with my kits. Now is the time to get ready for success in Television!

This Is Just Some of  
the Equipment My  
Students Build. All  
Parts Yours to Keep.

## 1. EXTRA MONEY IN SPARE TIME

Many students make \$5, \$10 a week and more EXTRA fixing neighbors' Radios in spare time while learning. The day you enroll I start sending you SPECIAL BOOKLETS that show you how. Tester you build with kits I send helps you make extra money servicing sets, gives practical experience on circuits common to Radio and Television. All equipment is yours to keep.

## 2. GOOD PAY JOB

NRI Courses lead to these and many other jobs: Radio and TV service, P.A., Auto Radio, Lab, Factory, and Electronic Controls Technicians, Radio and TV Broadcasting, Police, Ship and Airways Operators and Technicians. Opportunities are increasing. The United States has over 105 million Radios—over 2,900 Broadcasting Stations—more expansion is on the way.

## 3. BRIGHT FUTURE

Think of the opportunities in Television. Over 15,000,000 TV sets are now in use; 108 TV stations are operating and 1800 new TV stations have been authorized . . . many of them expected to be in operation in 1953. This means more jobs—good pay jobs with bright futures. More operators, installation service technicians will be needed. Now is the time to get ready for a successful future in TV! Find out what Radio and TV offer you.

## You Learn Servicing or Communications by Practicing With Kits I Send

Keep your job while training at home. Hundreds I've trained are successful RADIO-TELEVISION Technicians. Most had no previous experience; many no more than grammar school education. Learn Radio-Television principles from illustrated lessons. You also get PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. Pictured at left, are just a few of the pieces of equipment you build with kits of parts I send. You experiment with, learn circuits common to Radio and Television.

Mail Coupon—find out what RADIO-TELEVISION Can Do for You

Act Now! Send for my FREE DOUBLE OFFER. Coupon entitles you to actual Servicing Lesson; shows how you learn at home. You'll also receive my 64-page book, "How to Be a Success in Radio-Television." Send coupon in envelope or paste on postal. J. E. SMITH, Pres., Dept. 3AK, National Radio Institute, Washington 9, D. C. Our 39th Year.

## Good for Both—FREE

Mr. J. E. Smith, President, Dept. 3AK  
National Radio Institute, Washington 9, D. C.  
Mail me Sample Lesson and 64-page Book, "How to Be a Success in Radio-Television." Both FREE. (No salesman will call. Please write plainly.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved under G.I. Bill

The ABC's of  
SERVICING

How to Be a  
Success  
in RADIO-  
TELEVISION



# PLASTIC MAN



**WHO DARES TO PUT HIS  
FOOT UPON THE STAIR?**

REMEMBER, MORTAL, BEYOND  
LIES MADNESS! BEYOND AWAIT  
SUCH VISIONS AS NO LIVING MAN  
EVER LOOKED UPON! FOR THIS  
IS NO ORDINARY STAIRWAY!

IT LEADS STRAIGHT INTO THE  
INFERNAL REGIONS WHENCE  
NO CREATURE MAY RETURN!

YES, PLASTIC MAN AND WOZZY  
ARE GOING TO ASCEND THE STAIRS!  
BUT WE WARN YOU: DON'T  
FOLLOW THEM! THIS IS...

**THE STAIRWAY TO MADNESS!**



# PLASTIC MAN



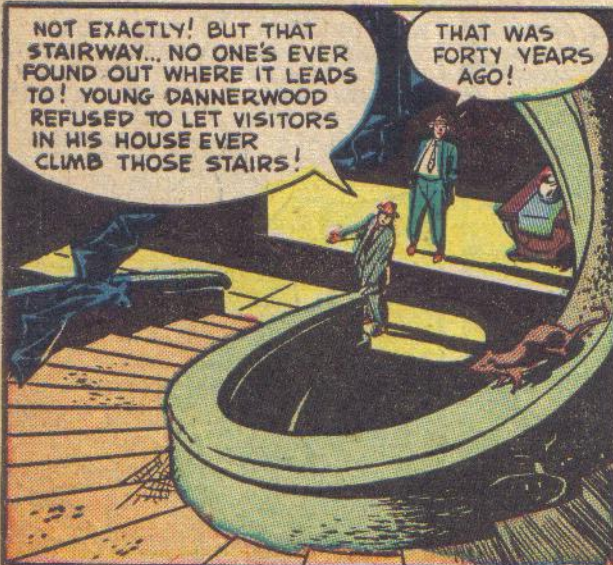


# PLASTIC MAN





# PLASTIC MAN





# PLASTIC MAN

THE SIMPLE-MINDED OLD FOOL! HE ACTUALLY TRIED TO TALK HIMSELF OUT OF A SALE! NO ONE'S EVER CLIMBED THIS STAIRCASE, EH? WELL, I'M GOING TO TRY IT!

AS BULLETHEAD BECKER PUT HIS FOOT ON THE FIRST STAIR, A FEELING OF COLD TERROR GRIPPED HIS BODY...

WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME, ANYWAY? I-I'M ACTING LIKE A SCARED KID!

CREEEAKKKKK...

EACH STAIR CREAKED BENEATH THE UNFAMILIAR FOOT-FALL....

WITH A SOUND LIKE A HUMAN VOICE IN PAIN !!!

A-A SKELETON'S HEAD! IT MUST HAVE BEEN CARVED OUT OF WOOD! T-THAT YOUNG DANNER-WOOD SURE HAD A PECULIAR SENSE OF HUMOR!



I-I'LL CLIMB THOSE STAIRS SOME OTHER TIME! MY NERVE'S ARE BAD...AFTER THAT BRUSH WITH PLASTIC MAN! THAT'S THE TROUBLE! I-I'VE BEEN UNDER A BAD STRAIN!

MEANWHILE, AT THE F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS...

BULLETHEAD, BECKER NEVER REACHED HIS ORIGINAL DESTINATION, CHIEF! HE DROPPED OFF THE TRAIN SOME-TIME DURING THE NIGHT!

WE'VE GOT TO BRING HIM IN!

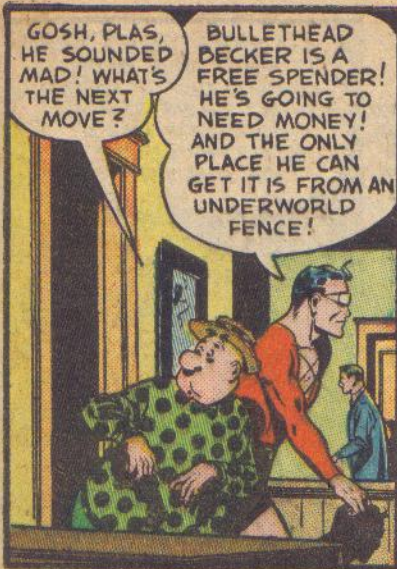
I WON'T TAKE ANY EXCUSES FOR FAILURE! DON'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU'VE FOUND HIM!

YES, CHIEF!





# PLASTIC MAN





# PLASTIC™ MAN

**THAT SAME  
NIGHT AS THE  
FIRST RAYS OF  
MOONLIGHT  
FLOOD HIS  
BEDROOM,  
BULLETHEAD  
BECKER  
SUDDENLY  
SITS UPRIGHT,  
LISTENING!**

AND ONCE  
AGAIN HE  
HEARS AN  
ALL TOO  
FAMILIAR  
SOUND...

**A-A KIND OF  
RHYTHMIC  
CHANTING....  
COMING FROM  
UPSTAIRS!**

TH-THIS IS THE **FIFTH**  
NIGHT IN A ROW I'VE  
HEARD IT! IT SEEMS TO  
GET LOUDER AND  
PLAINER ALL THE TIME!  
I-I CAN ALMOST MAKE  
OUT THE WORDS... IN  
SOME KIND OF A  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE!

**IT'S THE DEVIL  
WORSHIPPERS!  
THEY'RE UPSTAIRS  
IN THE HOUSE,  
HOLDING SOME  
TERRIBLE RITUAL!  
I WON'T  
LISTEN!!**

WITH THE RETURN OF DAYLIGHT.

THE CHANTING HAS  
STOPPED NOW! I-I  
CAN'T TAKE MUCH  
MORE OF THIS!  
I'VE GOT TO LICK  
THIS THING BEFORE  
IT LICKS ME!

IT'S PROBABLY JUST...  
MY IMAGINATION! TODAY  
I'M GOING TO CLIMB THAT  
STAIRWAY, AND FIND OUT  
WHAT'S UPSTAIRS!  
THEN I WON'T BE AFRAID  
ANYMORE!

**MEANWHILE...**

ANY LUCK,  
WOOZY?

NOPE! HE DIDN'T  
ASK FOR ANY  
MAIL ADDRESSED  
TO THE POST-  
OFFICE NUMBER.  
PLAS! IF YOU ASK  
ME, WE'RE ON A  
WILD GOOSE  
CHASE!

HMM! THIS OLD  
FELLOW SEEMS  
INTERESTED IN THE  
REWARD POSTER  
I TACKLED UP!

HAVE YOU SEEN  
ANYONE WHO  
RESEMBLES  
THAT PHOTOGRAPH,  
OLD TIMER?

YEP! HE'S THE  
DABLAMED IDJIT  
WHO RENTED THE  
OLD DANNERWOOD  
HOUSE NEAR  
HERE



# PLASTIC MAN









# PLASTIC MAN



THAT WAS BULLETHEAD'S VOICE! HE'S INSIDE!

WITH A SINGLE POWERFUL WRENCH, PLASTIC MAN RIPS THE IRON DOOR FROM ITS HINGES!

THEN HE STOPS, AS IN THE FLAME-WREATHED SMOKE OF THE ROOM, HE SEES A DREADFUL VISION!



NO!



IN THE HOUSE COLLAPSED! PLAS IS STILL INSIDE!



PLAS!

A CLOSE CALL! I HAD TO MOVE FAST, GETTING DOWN TO THE BASEMENT JUST BEFORE THE HOUSE CAVED IN!



DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, PLAS! YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE BULLETHEAD!

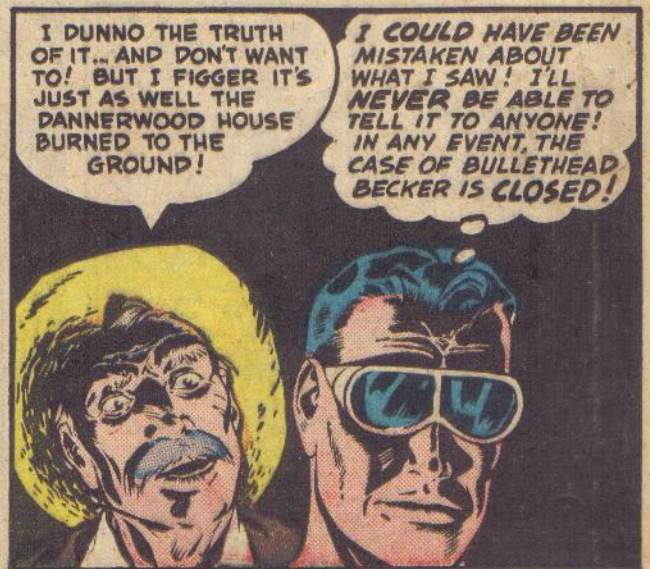
IT-IT'S NOT THAT, WOODY! I SAW SOMETHING UPSTAIRS IN THAT HOUSE JUST BEFORE THE FLAMES SWEEPED THROUGH IT! AND I-I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I SAW!



LATER...

YOU SAY THAT YOUNG DANNERWOOD AND HIS DISCIPLES OF EVIL MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED? NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM!

SOME SAY THE DEVIL HIMSELF CAME DOWN TO CLAIM THEM! AND THERE'S OTHERS WHO TELL HOW DANNERWOOD AND HIS FRIENDS STILL GATHER IN THE OLD HOUSE... TO PERFORM THE OLD RITUALS, AND OFFER UP HUMAN SACRIFICES TO SATAN!



I DUNNO THE TRUTH OF IT... AND DON'T WANT TO! BUT I FIGGER IT'S JUST AS WELL THE DANNERWOOD HOUSE BURNED TO THE GROUND!

I COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN ABOUT WHAT I SAW! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL IT TO ANYONE! IN ANY EVENT, THE CASE OF BULLETHEAD BECKER IS CLOSED!



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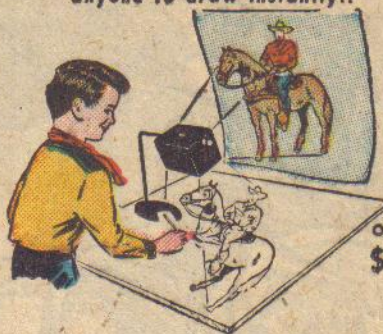
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### 10 Day FREE TRIAL

If the Master Art Helper doesn't help you to draw anything you want to draw. If you can't draw people, animals, maps, figures, or anything else like a professional artist with this Master Art Helper, return it within 10 days and your money will be refunded.

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ONLY  
**\$1.98**  
Complete

## HOW IT WORKS

Simply look through the Master Art Helper and see what you want to draw right on the paper you are using. All you do is trace the drawing, like magic you have drawn a perfect professional picture!

## 10 DAY FREE TRIAL! MAIL COUPON NOW!

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- Rush me the Master Art Helper and your free booklet, "Easily Understood Tricks of the Artist."
- ☐ I enclose \$1.98, send postage prepaid. I understand I can return this merchandise after a 10-day trial and my money will be refunded.
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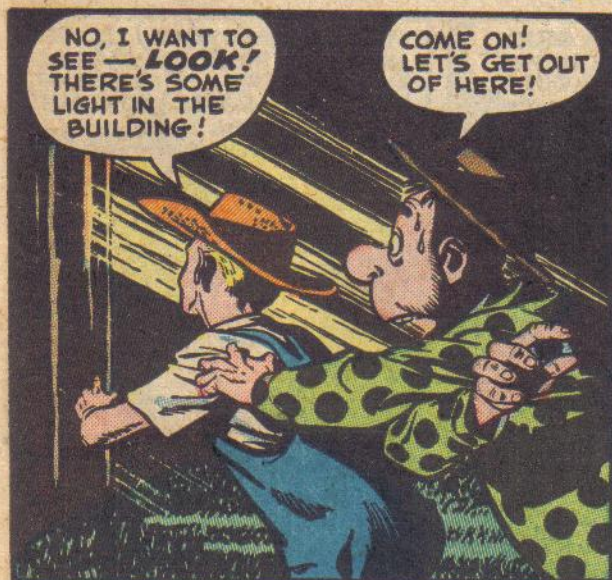


# WOOZY



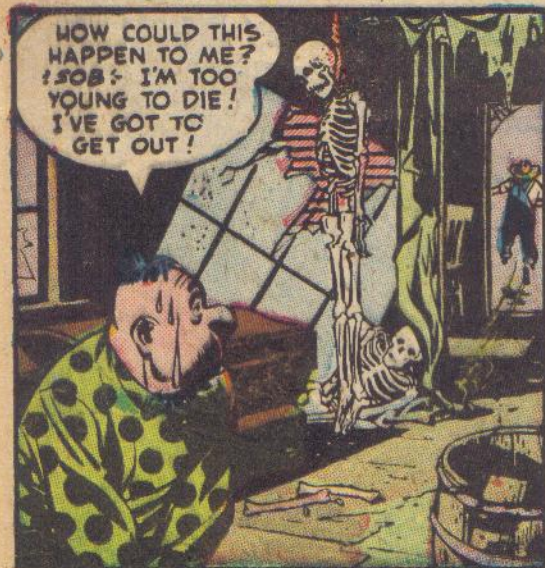
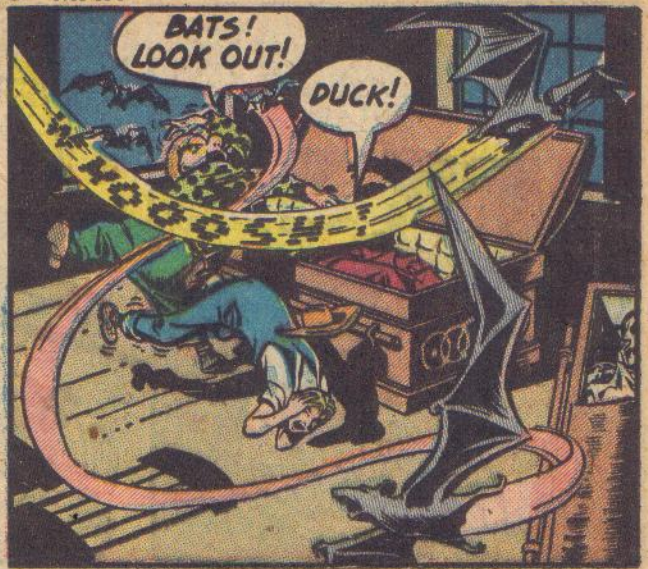
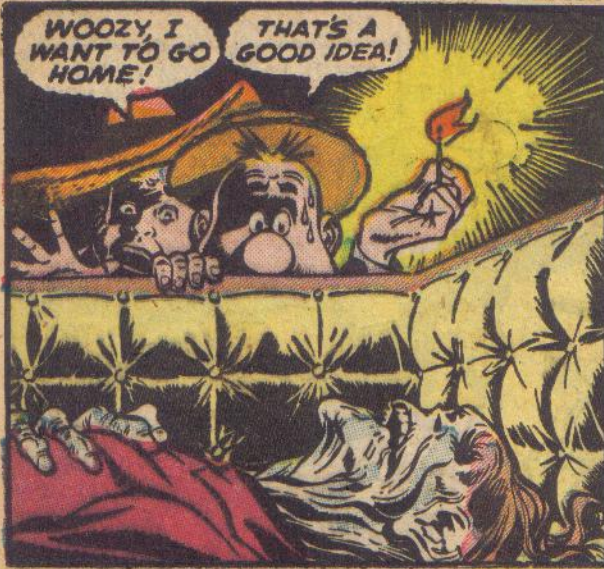


# PLASTIC MAN



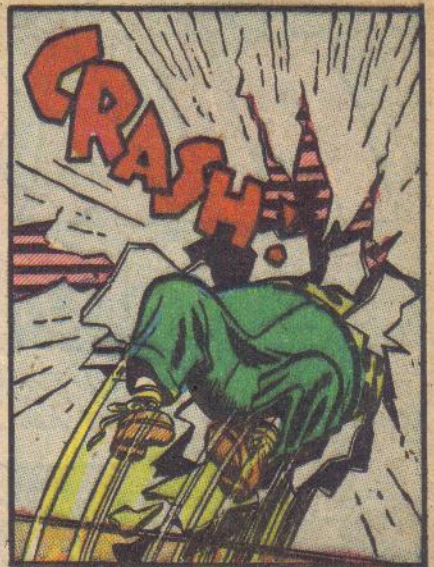


# PLASTIC MAN





# PLASTIC MAN







**IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND LAWLESSNESS, PLASTIC MAN, THE FEARLESS F.B.I. AGENT, HAS TRAVELLED THE WORLD OVER! NO POINT ON THE GLOBE, HOWEVER DARK AND DISTANT, HAS DETERRED THE RUBBERY DEFENDER OF THE LAW FROM TRACKING DOWN AND APPREHENDING CRIMINALS!**

**BUT NEVER BEFORE HAS PLASTIC MAN FACED THE EERIE AND UNCERTAIN DANGERS HE MUST COPE WITH WHEN HE DISAPPEARS**

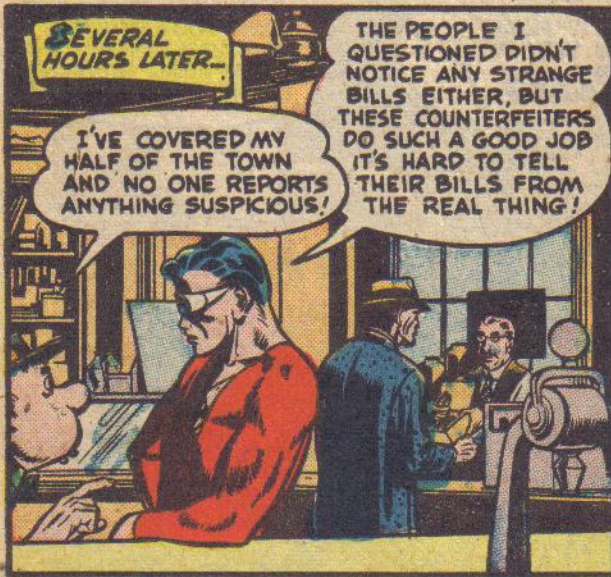
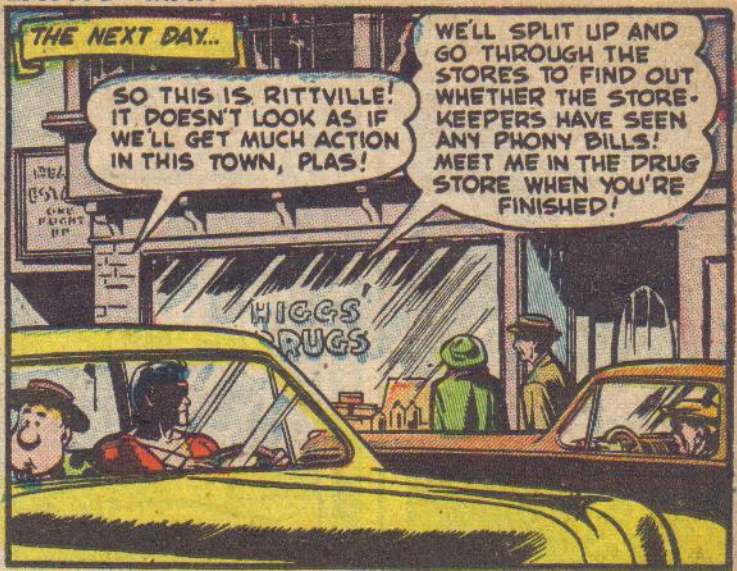
**IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION!**



**THE ONLY POSITIVE INFORMATION WE HAVE IS THAT SEVERAL GOVERNMENT AGENTS ON THE CASE HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE VICINITY OF RITTVILLE, A SMALL TOWN UP THE RIVER!**







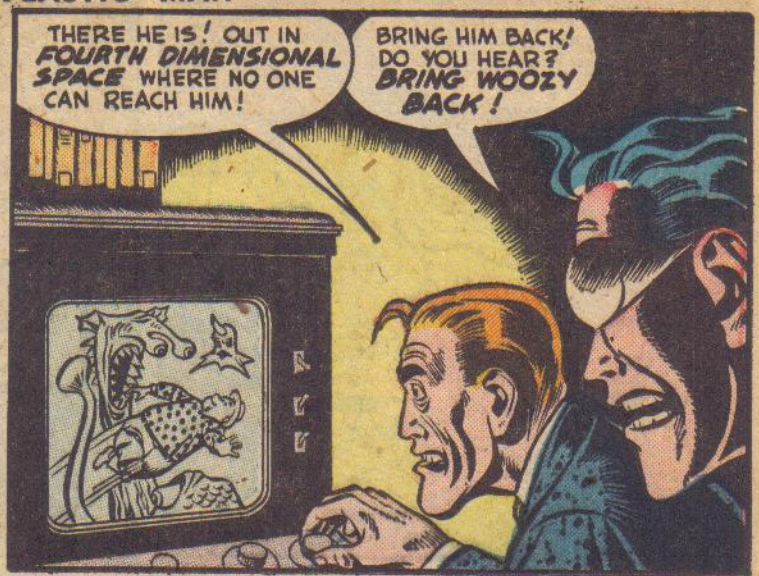


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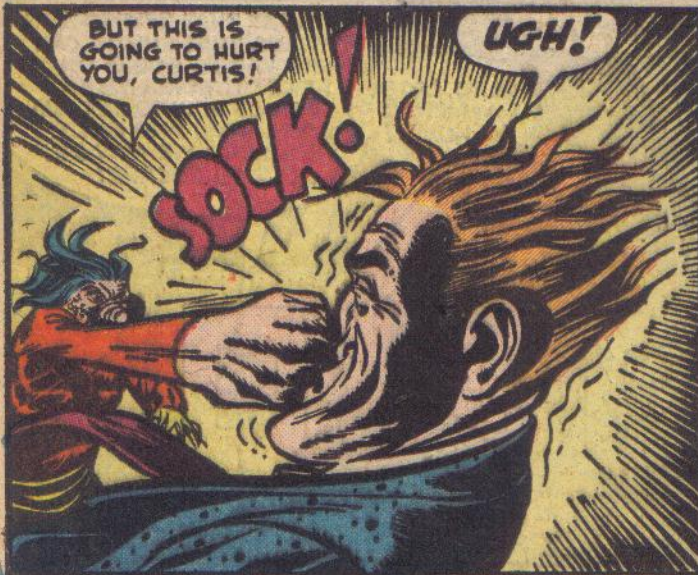


# PLASTIC MAN





# PLASTIC MAN





# Suspicion of MURDER

**S**HORTLY after Tom Jones left for New York to take a job on a newspaper, Jake Morris came to work on the widow Jones' farm. According to his mother's letters, Jake was an efficient hand and a great help around the handsome, old farm house. It needed lots of repairs and Mrs. Jones wrote happily that Jake took to all the odd jobs like a duck to water. Tom was very surprised to hear, a short six weeks later, that his mother and Jake had been married. It wasn't that Tom had anything against Jake. He'd never met the man, but it seemed that since his mother had been a widow for five years, she might have taken a little more time to decide definitely on who the next groom might be. He must have sounded a little sarcastic in his letter home congratulating the bridal couple, because he got a fast reply from his mother, telling him again how wonderful Jake was, and how well he was taking over the management of the whole farm. He had even hired a new man to take over part of the chores. Tom thought about the money his father had left, and the mortgage-free land and home. He wasn't a suspicious guy normally, but his brief reporting career had given him another outlook on his fellow man and he considered the great step up in the world that Jake had taken. In a couple of months he had progressed from a hired hand to master of the lands.

Then one day, he got a letter from home written in a strange hand. It was from Jake. He was writing the regular weekly letter because "mom," as he called her, wasn't feeling too well right now and she wanted to be sure her boy got word of the family. Tom didn't understand his mother's illness. She'd always been in excellent health and certainly she couldn't be too ill to write him a letter. A couple of days later there was another letter from Jake. He said that Tom's mother had taken a little vacation to rest up. She had gone out to Denver to visit Tom's Aunt Dorothy. This set Tom back, too, because his aunt had visited his mother shortly before she'd hired Jake, and as a rule, in these later years, the sisters didn't visit each other more often than once a year, sometimes even less frequently. The whole thing began to gnaw on Tom and he decided to take a leave of absence, and meet his mother at his Aunt's.

His plane landed in Denver the next morning, and he took a cab to his aunt's fashionable suburban home. She was very surprised to see him and even more surprised to learn that her sister was supposed to be visiting her. "Why, Tom," she said, shaking her head, "I invited both Ada and her new husband out here after she wrote that they were married. Thought they could make a wedding trip of it. But your mother wrote back and said that Jake had so many plans for the farm and had hired a new hand and he just didn't feel that he could leave the place at that time." "It's too fast moving for me, Aunt Dot," replied Tom. "And now I'm worried about mother. I'll catch the next plane and go to see my step-father."

Late that night, Tom tried to use his key on

the front door of his home. The lock was changed. After considerable banging, an old geezer in a nightshirt answered. He was obviously surprised to see Tom, and introduced himself as Jake. He started by calling Tom "son," which irritated Tom. "I'm not your son, Jake," he snapped. "So let's not get too chummy on such short acquaintance, eh?" Tom nosed around the house a bit, with Jake at his heels. In his mother's room, he went to the closet. "It doesn't seem that mother took many clothes with her on her trip to Aunt Dot's," he said, slowly. "Oh, she said she'd be gone a few days and didn't need much, just took some of her trousseau duds with her," replied Jake. "Stuff you never did see, I guess." Tom whirled on Jake and told him that his mother wasn't at his aunt's and that his aunt knew nothing whatever of her proposed visit. Jake wasn't shaken, he just looked sad. "Sit down, boy," he said forlornly. "There's something I better tell you." Tom sat down, a hard, cold lump in his throat. Then old Jake launched on a tale about his mother running away with the new hired man. She'd been gone about a week and not a word had Jake heard. Seems that Jake had fired the new hand and the next day, he and Tom's mother left the farm together. Tom stared at the beady-eyed old gent, unbelieving. He knew his mother, she was not the runaway old girl that Jake was trying to make her. The lump stayed in Tom's throat and the blood beat furiously in his veins. "Station master saw 'em get on the east-bound train," sighed Jake.

The next morning, Tom checked with the station master. Sure, he'd seen them board the train. Must have bought tickets on board. In further questioning, it came out that neither of them carried any baggage. Tom lost no time in rounding up the sheriff, and telling him of his suspicions. "I think Jake might have killed her, Dan," he said. Dan put out a check on the missing hired hand with descriptions of Tom's mother. After a week, nothing turned up. Then the clerk in the railroad station in a small city nearby remembered seeing the couple get off the morning train. He thought hard and recalled that at noon of that same day they had returned to the station, the man was loaded with packages. They were heading for the ticket window when a man in a pick-up truck drove up, they got in and drove away with him.

From then on even the sheriff was convinced. It took weeks to break Jake. There were no bodies, no evidence. Then the reports came in on Jake's past record. He had been in and out of jail all his life, mostly larceny charges. Confronted with this, and the constant dunning Tom gave him, he finally confessed. He explained that he had killed them both on the trip home in the truck. He had framed it so the hired man would go along to carry her packages when she shopped, then surprised them by picking them up. The station keeper in the home town would notice that they didn't return on the train. The bodies were located buried in a lonely patch of woods near the farm. Jake had foolishly kept the gun. He was electrocuted last month.



# PLASTIC MAN



PLASTIC MAN AND WOODY ARE TAKING A WELL EARNED VACATION TRIP TO GREAT BRITAIN!

I'LL TAKE THE BAGGAGE MYSELF! HERE YOU ARE!

!ULP? T-THANK YOU, SIR!

NOT A BAD LOOKING DUMP!

THESE OLD ENGLISH INNS ARE JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED, EH, PLAS?

YOU SAID IT, WOODY! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A WEEK OF ABSOLUTE QUIET AND PEACE FAR FROM CRIME AND —...

EEEEYAHHHH!



# PLASTIC MAN



WHAT'S THAT?

SOMEBODY SCREAMED BLOODY MURDER! HERE HE COMES, PLAS!



OHhhh! IT WAS HORRIBLE... HORRIBLE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



A-A MAN ON HORSEBACK! HE HUNTED ME THROUGH THE WOODS WITH HIS HOUNDS! T-THEY WOULD HAVE TORN ME TO PIECES!

IT DOESN'T SOUND POSSIBLE! WHAT KIND OF A MONSTER WOULD HUNT OTHER HUMAN BEINGS?



I CAN ANSWER THAT! HE UNDOUBTEDLY SAW THE GHOST OF THE EVIL LORD HALKEY!

A GHOST?



AYE... LORD HALKEY HAS BEEN DEAD FOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS! HE WAS A CRUEL TYRANT IN HIS DAY! MANY IS THE POOR SERF WHO WAS HUNTED AND KILLED BY LORD HALKEY AND HIS HOUNDS!



EVER SINCE THERE'S BEEN TALK THAT LORD HALKEY HAUNTS THE COUNTRYSIDE THAT ONCE BELONGED TO HIM! BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S ACTUALLY BEEN SEEN!

NONSENSE! I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS!

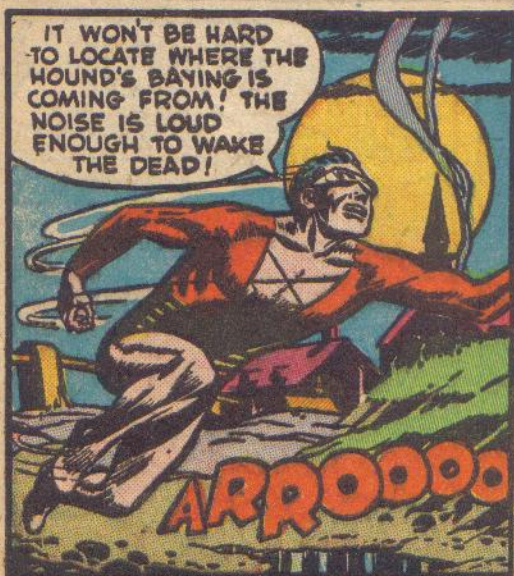
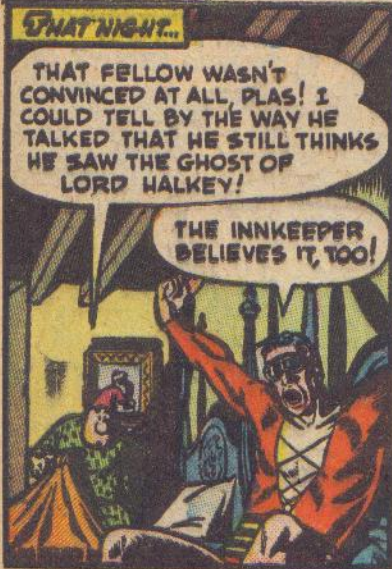


IF YOU THINK THAT WAS REALLY LORD HALKEY YOU SAW, LET'S GO BACK AND RETRACE YOUR ROUTE!

I..UH.. DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE NECESSARY! YOU'VE CONVINCED ME! I...ER.. WAS PROBABLY SUFFERING FROM AN OVER-ACTIVE IMAGINATION!

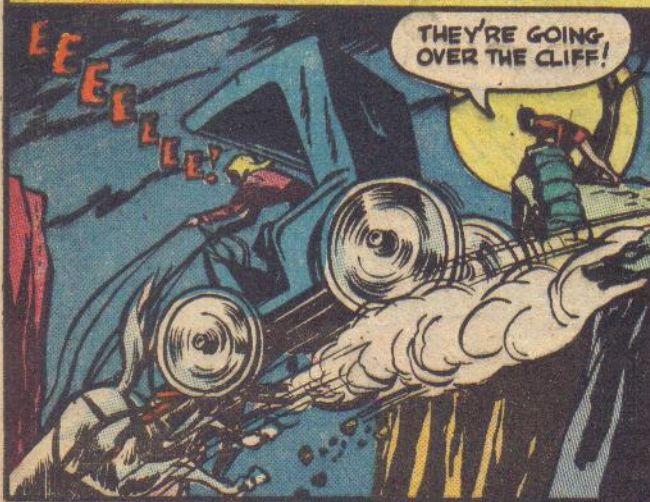


# PLASTIC MAN





MADDENED WITH TERROR, THE HORSES VEER AWAY FROM THEIR BLOODTHIRSTY PURSUERS!





# PLASTIC MAN





# PLASTIC MAN

A SHORT TIME LATER, THE WILD CLATTER OF HOOFEATS AWAKENS PLASTIC MAN...

GLORIA ASHLEY! WHAT'S WRONG?

LORD ASHLEY AND HIS HOUNDS! WE HEARD THEM AGAIN AND TOM WENT TO INVESTIGATE! HE NEVER CAME BACK!

I-I'M AFRAID SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED TO HIM!

DON'T WORRY, MISS ASHLEY! MY FRIEND AND I WILL FIND YOUR BROTHER!

I COULDN'T FIND A GOLDFISH IN A CLEAR BOWL OF WATER! CAN'T YOU GO ALONE?

NOPE! TWO OF US LOOKING JUST DOUBLES OUR CHANCES OF FINDING TOM ASHLEY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

SOON...

HMM! WE'RE TOO LATE ALREADY! HERE'S WHAT REMAINS OF TOM ASHLEY'S CLOTHES... TORN TO BITS BY HOUNDS!

G-G- GOSH!

WE'VE GOT TO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF THE KILLERS! YOU GO THE OTHER WAY, WOZZY, AND HOLLER IF YOU SEE ANYTHING!

YEAH BUT WHAT'LL I DO IF ANYTHING SEES ME?

ARRROOOOOOOO!

UULP! I HOPE I DIDN'T HEAR WHAT I KNOW I HEARD!

PLAS! OH, PLAS!

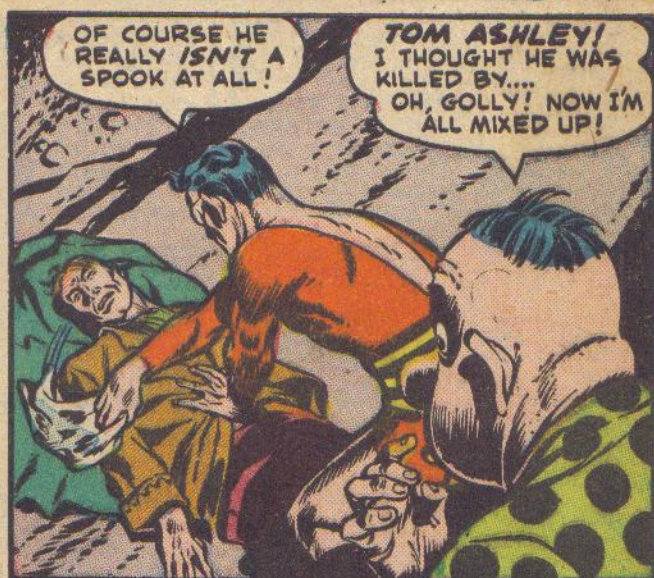
ARRROOOOOOO!

AHRRRR!

YIII! I TRIPPED!



# PLASTIC MAN





# "LOOK" WHAT YOU GET IN THE *Schwinn*

MAKE IT YOURS CHRISTMAS MORNING! ASK DAD!



Koroseal-top saddle with chrome springs!

Schwinn Electro-forged frame! World's strongest!

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WITH

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CAP LIKE  
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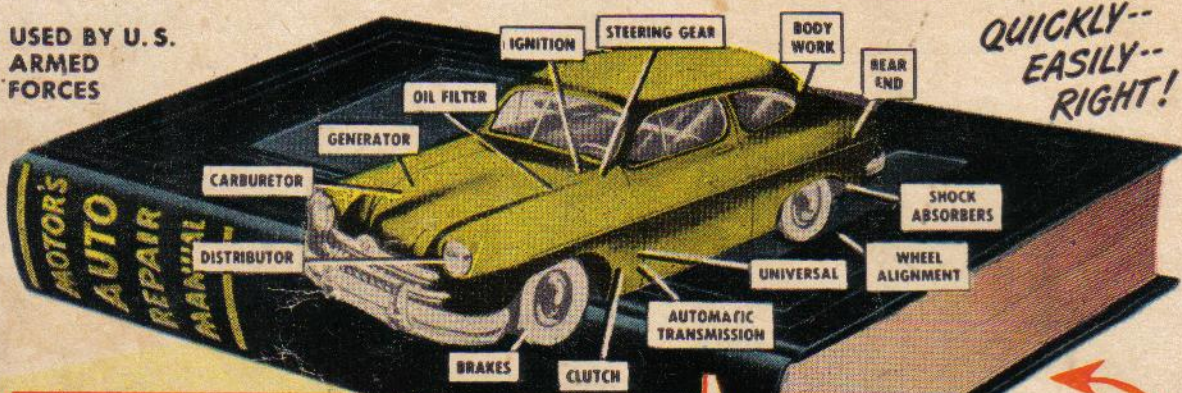
City.....Zone.....State.....

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